

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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P 111516Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3461

UNCLAS BELGRADE 3582

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, YO

SUBJECT: IREX-FAISECTC EXCHANGE

1. IREX AGREEMENT WITH FAISECTC STIPULATES THAT FOR 1975/76 EXCHANGE, SENDING SIDE WILL PAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. WITHOUT CONSULTING EITHER AYEC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OR US MEMBERS FULBRIGHT COMMISSION, OTO DENES OF FAISECTC HAS DECIDED MEET HIS OBLIGATIONS TOWARD IREX BY HAVING YUGOSLAV IREX GRANTEES APPLY TO AYEC FOR TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS WITH IDEA THAT THESE APPLICANTS BE GIVEN PRIORITY OVER ANY OTHERS. FIRST WORD EMBASSY HAD OF THIS WAS LAST WEEK DURING MEETING OF AYEC SUB-COMMITTEE TO DECIDE TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS WHEN SLATE OF EIGHT IREX GRANTEES PUT FORWARD. AMERICAN MEMBERS SUB-COMMITTEE DEMURRED. DENES SCHEME WAS CONFIRMED TODAY WHEN PAO CALLED TO MEET RELIC, ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR FAISECTC. RELIC MADE SPECIAL PLEA IN THIS "EXCEPTIONAL CASE" BECAUSE SCHOLARS INVOLVED PRESSING FOR RESOLUTION PROBLEM.

2. EMBASSY INCLINED TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING IREX PROGRAM IN AYEC ACTIVITIES ONLY IF GOY INCREASES CONTRIBUTION TO AYEC. SEE NO REASON WHY AYEC PROGRAM SHOULD BE CUT BACK IN ORDER HELP FAISECTC PAY ITS DEBTS. HAVE INFORMED YUGOSLAV SIDE OF AYEC (INCLUDING DENES) THAT US SIDE WISHES DISCUSS THIS MATTER BUT DENES HAS REPEATEDLY AVOIDED CONTACT WITH EMBASSY AND AYEC OVER LAST 3 MONTHS, AND NOW GONE ON LEAVE FOR A MONTH, THUS MAKING RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM IMPOSSIBLE. LUNCHEON MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN AND BULAJIC (DIRECTOR OF FAISECTC) SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 26 TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM AND THAT OF US STUDENT PROGRAM CANCELLED BY BULAJIC ON SHORT NOTICE.

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3. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, AND SINCE TIME FOR YUGOSLAV GRANTEES TO LEAVE

FOR US RAPIDLY APPROACHING (EARLY AUGUST), REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONTACT IREX TO DETERMINE IF IT WILLING PAY TRAVEL YUGOSLAV GRANTEES FOR THIS YEAR ONLY. EMBASSY WILL THEN UNDERTAKE DISCUSS IREX EXCHANGE WITH YUGOSLAV MEMBERS AYEC AND ATTEMPT REACH AGREEMENT WHEREBY NEXT YEAR'S IREX GRANTEES COULD RECEIVE TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS. SUCH PLAN WOULD, OF COURSE, BE SUBJECT DEPARTMENT AND BFS APPROVAL.

4. THIS PARTIAL SOLUTION SKIRTS GENERAL QUESTION OF DESIRABILITY CONTINUE IREX PROGRAM IN YUGOSLAVIA, IN VIEW OF EXISTENCE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM, AND ADDITIONALLY IN VIEW OF CLOSE SIMILARITY BOTH PROGRAMS (F.Y.I. YUGOSLAVS PUSHING MEDICINE, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, ARCHITECTURE HARD IN BOTH PROGRAMS, THUS GOING AGAINST THEIR EARLIER EXPRESSED INTEREST TO START MOVING INTO SOCIAL SCIENCES, AT LEAST WITH FULBRIGHT PROGRAM).

5. ADVISE URGENTLY RE: PARA 3.
SILBERMAN

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